

a counter substrate located opposite to said TFT substrate;
and

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a nonconductive or weakly conductive material covering a side edge of said counter substrate and a side edge of said TFT substrate and a part of said bus line provided at said side edge of said TFT substrate.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending.

The drawings stand objected to. The requested changes have been made in the accompanying Request for Drawing Changes Under Rule 123, thereby obviating the objections thereto.

Claims 1-2, 9-10, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over the prior art admitted by the applicants on page 2, lines 14-23 of the specification in view of Hinata et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,610,742. Claims 1, 9, and 17-20 have been amended, thereby obviating the rejections thereto, as well as to claims 2-8 and 11-16 which depend therefrom. Furthermore, amended claims 1, 9, and 17-20 are not disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art.

Taking amended claim 1 as exemplary, claim 1 specifies a TFT substrate; a counter substrate located opposite to said TFT substrate, a side edge of said counter substrate being substantially aligned with a side edge of said TFT substrate; a bus line provided on said TFT substrate and connected with the corresponding pixel TFTs; and a nonconductive or weakly conductive material applied or adhesively bonded to said side edge of said counter substrate and said side edge of said TFT substrate and a part of said bus line provided at said side edge of said TFT substrate. The nonconductive or weakly conductive filling material acts to prevent breakdown by static electricity generated by the part of the bus line provided at the edge of the TFT substrate.

By contrast, the references cited by the examiner do not disclose or suggest the structure defined in amended claim 1. As the examiner admits, the conventional configuration described in the specification on page 2 does not include a nonconductive material applied to the side edges of the TFT and counter substrates. The examiner cites to the disclosure of Hinata for sealing edges of substrates with an epoxy adhesive or flexible gas barrier film. Hinata does not disclose or suggest applying these materials to a bus line provided on a TFT substrate. Thus, Hinata does not disclose or suggest this limitation of claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance, as well as claims 2-8 which depend therefrom.

Amended claims 9 and 17-20 include similar limitations to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and so, for similar reasons, are in condition for allowance, as well as claims 10-16 which depend from claim 9.

Claims 3-8 and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the prior art admitted by the applicants on page 2, lines 14-23 of the specification in view of Hinata, and further in view of Sprujit et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,394,067. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended, thereby obviating the rejections to claims 3-8 and 11-16 which depend respectively therefrom.

Furthermore, Sprujit does not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 1, alone or in combination with the conventional figuration disclosed on page 2 of the specification and Hinata. Sprujit does not disclose or suggest the bus line and filling material specified in claim 1 and so does not disclose or suggest claim 1. Thus, claims 3-8, depending from claim 1, include limitations which are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Claim 9 includes limitations similar to those of claim 1, and so claims 11-16, depending from claim 9, include limitations which are not disclosed or suggested by the

cited references. Accordingly, claims 3-8 and 11-16 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If there are any other charges, or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/5/99



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